

## ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a joining element that is part of a fast connecting unit for hydraulic or pneumatic connecting conduits and comprises a tubular basic member (1), onto which two diametrically opposed, laterally spaced-apart two-legged snapping elements (5) are formed. Said snapping elements (5) are connected to the outer wall of the basic member (1) at the swaying point thereof while the free ends of the forward-facing legs thereof are provided with inward-directed hooks (11) which can grip from behind a catching element (12) (undercut) located on the outer wall of a counterpart (4) of the fast connecting unit when the connection is established. The rearward-facing legs of the snapping elements (5) are embodied as spring-type legs (13), the free ends of which are bent back in an inward direction such that a gap (a) remains between said ends and a respective opposite contact area. Said gap (a) limits the swaying movement of the spring-type legs (13) towards the basic member (1) to an extent that corresponds to the movement of expansion of the front legs of the snapping elements (5), which is required to disengage said hooks (11) from the catching element (12) of the counterpart (4), said front legs supporting the hooks (11). In addition, the restoring force of the snapping elements (5) is improved and the connection is secured against being accidentally released if the end of the spring-type legs (13) is bent so as to form a loop (14).

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